

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05674 031806Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 ARA-06 /094 W  
-----031953Z 057660 /73

P 031754Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0074  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05674

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CU, AO, BE  
SUBJ: BELGIAN REPORTING FROM LUANDA

REFS: A. BRUSSELS 5439 (NOTAL) B. STATE 123813

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN DESK OFFICER (VERKAMMEN)  
SUMMARIZED FOR US LATEST REPORTING FROM BELGIAN CHARGE IN  
LUANDA ON CURRENT UNREST THERE AND UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTED  
COUP. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS:

A. MANY WERE KILLED IN UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT,  
INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN. BELGIAN CHARGE ASCRIBES  
THIS TO FACT THAT REBEL-HELD RADIO LUANDA BROADCAST  
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APPEALS TO THE GENERAL POPULATION TO GO DOWN TO THE  
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. HE REPORTED SOME UNITS OF THE  
ANGOLAN ARMY (FAPLA) JOINED THE REBELLION AND ARMED  
CIVILIANS INVADDED THE PRISONS AND RELEASED PRISONERS  
(INCLUDING A BELGIAN CITIZEN). NITO ALVES, ON BEING  
RELEASED, WENT TO THE CENTER OF LUANDA IN A COMMANDEERED  
"PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE". TROOPS GUARDING PRESIDENTIAL

PALACE FIRED ON REBELS AND GENERAL PUBLIC, INFLECTING HIGH CASUALTIES.

B. REBEL-HELD RADIO LUANDA INCITED GENERAL PUBLIC AGAINST POLITICAL POLICE (DIZA) AND CLAIMED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

C. CUBAN TROOPS TOOK RADIO LUANDA FROM REBELS AT 13:00 MAY 27, AND PRESIDENT NETO BROADCAST HIS FIRST SPEECH AT 15:00. MINISTER OF DEFENSE IKO CARREIRA AND MPLA LEADER LUCIO LARA WERE REPORTED KILLED OR MISSING. REBEL LEADER NITO ALVES ESCAPED. FAPL UNITS OCCUPIED LUANDA AIRPORT AND CLOSED IT. STREETS WERE FULL OF CUBAN PATROLS, AND CHARGE REPORTED THEIR PRESENCE "IRRITATES THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT FOREIGNERS INTERVENING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

D. CHARGE REPORTED LUANDA RETURNED TO "NORMAL" MAY 30, WITH FAPLA UNITS REPLACING CUBANS ON PATROL AND AT CHECKPOINTS. OF "SEVERAL HUNDRED" KNOWN DEAD, HE CITED ONE FAPLA MAJOR AND FOUR COMMANDERS, A COMMANDER OF POLITICAL POLICE (DIZA), A DIRECTOR IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THREE COMPANIONS, FOUND IN THE SAME CAR "CUT INTO PIECES AND BURNED".

E. PRESIDENT NETO, IN SPEECH ON MAY 28TH, ACCUSED "PIGS OF FNLA AND UNITA AND IMPERIALISTS OF ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA" FOR ATTEMPTED COUP. NETO SAID REBEL LEADERS CONFIDENTIAL

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NITO ALVES AND VAN DUNEN WOULD BE ARRESTED SOON. CHARGE REPEATED REPORT THAT SOME OF FAPLA PATROLS SEARCHING FOR NITO ALVES AND VAN DUNEN MAY HAVE JOINED REBELS. HE REPORTED CONTINUING ARRESTS IN LUANDA.

F. PRESIDENT NETO PUBLICLY ACCUSED "CERTAIN EMBASSIES" OF FOMENTING UNREST IN LUANDA. CHARGE REPORTED THESE EMBASSIES WERE USSR AND YUGOSLAVIA, ESPECIALLY PRESS SECTION OF LATTER WHERE NITO ALVES WAS FREQUENT VISITOR BEFORE HIS ARREST.

2. VERKAMMEN TOLD US THAT CHARGE VIEWED NETO GOVERNMENT AS FRAGILE, KEPT IN POWER BY CUBANS WHO PUT DOWN REBELLION. CHARGE DESCRIBED ANGOLAN PEOPLE AS "FED UP" WITH NETO/CUBAN RULE AND SAW UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT AS "DRESS REHEARSAL" FOR ANOTHER ONE IF CONDITIONS DID NOT IMPROVE. VERKAMMEN DISCOUNTS CHARGE'S VIEWS, CITING HIS INEXPERIENCE IN POLITICAL MATTERS. VERKAMMEN SEES CUBANS AS ABLE TO KEEP NETO GOVERNMENT IN POWER

INDEFINITELY. RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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